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SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR LETTERS BETWEEN CLAWSON, CHARLES W. CLAWSON AND E. A. CLAWSON CLAYTON, INDIANA, 1898

[Owned in the 1960s by Mrs. Roy H. Pritchard,
R.R. #1, Clayton Indiana]

Copied in the 1960s for the collection of the
Allen County Public Library by Fred J. Reynolds

I can't tell you any thing only to Pray and do not be wicked try to live right and God will Bring you safely through Charlie you dont know how soon you may be called to go to Cuba and face the Enemy in Battle so be Prepared and dont wait until the last moment to Pray for God to Keep You from harm

Clayton Ind May 16 1898

Dear Charlie

Eugene received your letter and sent it to me last week. we were all glad to hear from you. I was getting uneasy for fear you would not write, and may be you would be called to go to Cuba and we might never hear from you again. you ought to think of these things and not neglect to write and your letter might be the means of securing you a pension some time if you had no other proof that you was a soldier. Eugene just started home from here. him and Willie Harvey aunt Ann's Boy was here for Dinner

Pray to God
and trust
in Him for safety
through

He stayed all night at Eupenco and Eugene Brought him out this morning. Willie came out on an Excursion to some kind of a meeting of the Odd Fellows He was a Delegate to the Grand lodge I think is what he said, he went to the lodge with Eugene at Clayton last night. I wish you belonged to the Order of Masons it would be such a great help to you if you should happen to be Taken Prisoner so many of the foreigners belong to that Order and if you could get a chance to go to Chatanooga I would be glad if you would become a member it would cost you Twenty Dollars to be initiated and if you have not got that much money I could send you some to help you out and after you are initiated it only costs about one Dollar and fifty cents a year for dues

Charlie left yesterday morning alone and down

I saw 3 Captains in Columbus that day

that was all for

So Willie Harvey says. the masons is the Best-Order to belong to because nearly every man in the South and all foreigners Belong to it- if they Belong to any Order. and they are Bound to help their Brothers if they are in distress. and I feel like it- would be worth so much to you at- this time and in the future also. if God should spare your life. I seen in the News that your Regiment arrived at- Chicamauga at- an Early hour on monday morning the 16th may we know when you are called to move every time. well I guess may be you have seen the Boys from here By this time. Jim Bolen and his Bro Sigel and Rome Philejos that is the Butchers Boy and Ora Lowry. The Bolen Boys are in Co K. or H. of the one hundred and 158th Regiment Inf. Lee Reed is in Battery A. of Indianapolis a Private. You will Possibly see them

Harvey Bros Boys with Both their Eyes on account of

all if you look a little for them
Doc Seaton is getting up a Co
of 115 for the next call. his
Boys Backed out the first call
Doc is going too if his Boys go
the next call. Eugene says old
man Bolen is nearly killed about
his Boys going. he goes about
studying and troubled all the time
I tell you this is awful to the Parents.
we all know what a hard time you
Soldiers see. we know you are not
having a picnic. but Eugene
Imagines you dont see anything
but fun. but that kind of fun
gets old. but I hope you will make
the Best of it. and do as an old soldier
told me at aunt Lizzies he says the
only way a soldier can ever expect to
live through a war is to look out for
himself at all times to look out for your
own safety as much as possible. and
above all to look out for your health.
Study what is Best for yourself

We all got Sunstruck and we have to take a Bath in the Chickamauga river every Thursday afternoon walk back Say Nothing more to writing Yours Chas Lawson

Dalton Georgia
May 30, 1898

Dear Parents.

I would have lifted to write to you sooner but I have had much to keep me busy and I have been afraid to ough by the boys that I dislike to ask I would have to beg the stamps for this the State Guard Paid us but now we are expecting it now we are going to Tampa Florida tonight or tomorrow. that is the reason I write, we are on a Great Battle Field here and have enjoyed it very much

The day we got here were nailed down in Boxes upright- Beats all nuts- and at three Oclock in the afternoon and we got Our Knapsacks & Traps we have been on Dressparade Sept and Sergt gross killed at Bloody Pond at the foot of the Hill where the Rebbles sing themselves to get a drink of water after they were wounded There is a monument about 100 Rods Southeast of Our Camp that Marks the place where the 93 Ohio Regt Col. Wood drew up in Line. I found it- Last Sunday after I got Your Letter There has Something Strange happened and I bet you cant guess what it is Eugene Ambler belong to Our Regiment- Dick and Sam I was on guard last Friday at the mule Corral and I noticed and that Lorhed Like Sam and I went up and Looked good at him and was Standing on the other Side of the

Athens Guides after sleeping in Our wagons got into Camp They were tied to. I told the Next to watch him Like and I nudged dick and him off to See if he was Sam and Sure enough it was him I to one of the mule Bosses to Him cage of them and told him the circumstance and he said Good Boy- they got plenty to eat in Sam out Company So if Eugene cant be there his are in the service Lew Reed is just across the Road from us we visit almost daily Jim Bolen and Sigel and Phillips Orie Davis and Frank Howells Boy are about a mile and a half from us I Scouted about

Pte Lyal Meagher
Athens Co
Ohio
Co I 93rd Regt
Army of the Cumberland
2 Div 3 Brig

as I write it is quite 5 & 8 o'clock
Boys this to day is decoration day
I helped to dig a cellar under the
the Col. Cooks tent and Steve
was and me would general use it
So I went and washed my Pants
and Set them dry on rocks While
I Eat in the Tent
the weeks Last Saturday and
Sunday I never Went Before
7 O'Clock and Stayed a few
minutes and had to run
about a mile to get Back to
Our camp in 15 for Taps
which means Roll Call and
Lights out it I had been
1 minute late I would have
went to the guard house
O & the night Mr. John Below is
Sick of the army the Ottawa Co
is to be Satisfied Sigel gave
the Hendricks Co Regt Ban
and I got a Package to Read
the notes from home the Boys
are all worked up for we are
afraid we will have to go
the night and the marks

WILLIAM B. MILLAR,
Secretary of Commission.

ARMY CHRISTIAN COMMISSION
of the
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
Young Men's Christian Associations
General Offices,
3 West Twenty-Ninth St,
New York City.

TAMPA DEPARTMENT,
FRANK MAHAN, General Secretary.

Tampa, Fla., July 17 1898.

Dear Parents

I received your letter Friday. We were on provost-guard at Port Tampa city my Post-was in the Green Goose Saloon But-I got relief long enough to read your letter. we had a very hard time and some nasty fights to keep the soldiers from killing each other. it was the hardest guard I have had yet-24 hours without even time to eat or drink except when I got off 5 minutes to read your letter. the 3 Penn. is in our Brigade and the gave us the most trouble they seem to be jealous of us because we get better treatment on inspec-

the Last time we were on provo they six of them stole a calf from a boy in the street and we leading it of to camp when a squad of company seen them and arrested them and they fought like tigers and they had to take the strap off their Blankets and tie them hand and foot and carry them to their camp and when they got there their hole company turned on them and rein in the tents and got their guns and swore their boys would never go to guard house but the did for a major interfered in their behalf and they out with their lives. I was not with them Santiago has surrendired but with great loss on both sides. I am just beginning to realize what war is. I we down the warf the other day to see the wounded there were seven hundreds in all.

Army and Navy Christian Commission
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SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION.

TAMPA DEPARTMENT,
FRANK MAHAN, CAMP GENERAL SECRETARY.

(3)

Tampa, Fla., 1898

some them were just litterally shot to pieces and some with a foot or an arm off. and some had their fingers off. I talk with some of them about the battle and the said it was hell, ~~the~~ the spainard dont fight like Americans they do all their fighting by bushwacking a fellow can get shot anyhere and never know where the bullet came from for their guns are smokeless and noiseless. the wounded weary most about how their going to make a living with a hand or a foot off. I tolld one fellow that he would draw a pension and he said damnn the pension give me back my foots they are sending the wounded to a U S hospital in Georgia. I can not hear from Lee Reid nor the 158 Inf and I am afraid they were in the.

Santigo fight. a battery passed hear on the way to the port last week and some said it was the 2nd Battery I wish you would let me know if you can where they are I have written to Chickamanga to Lee Reid but cant get an answer. We passed a splendid inspection yesterday at 9 O'clock and the Captain relieved us from all duty Yesterday and today except Roll calls at 6 and 9 in the evening I am going to have some pictures taken to-morrow by our company photografer he has been very busy but has promised me to take them tomorrow it will at least a week before I will get them the Photograf at Tampa are no good and the charge to much. I want to send my over coat home when I send my pictures and some shells we have moved back from the Bay about a mile because it was to wet and the mosquitoes like to eat us up I sat up all night two weeks ago and smoked a pipe to keep the mosquitoes off.

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TAMPA DEPARTMENT,
FRANK MAHAN, CAMP GENERAL SECRETARY.

Tampa, Fla., July 26th 1898

Dear Parents: We are going to load on the Trans Ports for Puerto Rico to Morrow or next day. and I thought I had better write for you may not hear from me for some time again But dont get scared for we are very probably going as an army of occupation. They may give us a warm reception. but there is no more danger there than there is here for we will soon be quarintined on account of the Yellow fever here. I have had the Malaria lately but am better now. I am still taking quinine I sent my State Blouse and two white shirt home today by Express C.O.D for I havint any money at present I recieved your last letter Thursday you didnt say any thing about recieving a money

order from me for #000 but I suppose it had got there yet. I saw Ex Sheriffs Bells Boy last Sunday he was with the 11 U S Infantry on the Transport Mohawk he bid me goodby and waved hand as far as he could see me as the Boat left for Porto Rico. I have been feeling to bad to gather shells lately or I would have sent Some home may be I can send you some thing nicer from Porto Rico. I wrote to Eugene one day this week I will have to send you a Soldiers letter this there will be two cents due for postage I must Close it is 5 till nine

Good By

Charles Clawson

I will cut out some letters from the 27 Indiana Battery Lee Reed is in it—

July 31
I saw in last evenings News that your Regiment had arrived at Fernandina Florida
I will just let this letter go on to Tampa as I have packed it it will follow you

Clayton Ind July 29 1898

Dear Charlie

Billie Barnes just Brought your letter telling us you was about to go to Porto Rico. well I received your letter a week ago to day with the ten Dollars Postal note. I had just sent you a letter the day before I received yours that is the last one you got—. I have wanted to write every day for a week But have had a great deal to do I have been putting up peaches. I am sorry you have been sick for that is something you never knew much about. But may be your Ocean trip will be good for you. if you can keep clear of the Yellow Fever. I have seen in the Papers that

your Regiment was quarantined from the others on account of Yellow Fever. well it is said that Porto Rico is a healthy country and they do not have Yellow Fever there I do not believe there will be much fighting any more, as there are Peace Negotiations going on Between Spain and the United States. I hope the fighting is over with. Lee Reeds company the 27th Indiana Battery left Chickamauga early a Sunday morning For Newport News to Be loaded on Transports there for Porto Rico. they had not got started away from there on the 27th The Regiment 156 with Bolens Boys and George Eastham and Several others from here started For New Port News to be loaded for Porto Rico. the report here is that one of Sheriff Belles Boys was killed at Santiago had his head Blown

off By a Shell. did you know
George Huffford that lives out By
Carters Burg Springs he was drowned
last Sunday down at the Cataracts
he went in swimming and
stepped in a hole. his wife and
others saw him whirling around
and going down. But they could
do nothing for him. We will go
to the Express Office to see about
the shirt and Blouse. Essie Thompson
has been here visiting this week last
Evening Elbrige and Ida Johnson
came over we were all sitting on
the Porch in the Dark it was
not very dark But Elbrige
could'nt see what Essie looked like
So he said Josie light a lamp
so I can see your visitor
it But Essie and we all had a good
laugh I will make a little Bag to
Send you to put camphor in But
I believe asophoetato is best to keep
the Fever off and tie it on your

neck, and let it fall on your Breast.
if you would chew a little asofoetida
every few days and swallow a little
of the Juice it is a good disinfectant
and will kill Germs be careful not
to eat vegetables when you are
getting over the Fever of any kind
Cabbage and Beans are the worst.
Whenever you are sick always make up
your mind to get well and pray
and ask the Lord to spare your life.
And I Believe you will live to
come home. My Prayers might
have been the means of sparing
you from going to Santiago.
Where you might have been killed
Eugene was here a Monday and
had your letter. You must be careful
and not get wett and chilled Now
or you might get Typhoid Fever
Eugene says Ben Bolen is Nearly Crazy
about his Boys he grieves all the time
well Good By and May God Bless you and
take care of you. Your Mother E. L. Clawson

Army and Navy Christian Commission
OF THE
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Young Men's Christian Associations,
3 WEST TWENTY-NINTH STREET,
NEW YORK CITY.

WILLIAM B. MILLAR,
SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION.

Camp Fernadina Fla

Aug 15-th 1898

Dear Bro: We are still at Fernandia but we are going some place else soon We all thought when we got orders to move at Tampa that we were going to Porto Rico until we got on the train then we came he under sealed orders This is a beautiful Island since we have cleaned the spice Brush and Prickly ash off. and the mosquitoes are all gone into the bushes so we sleep well. This was an Island of sand hills covered with Negro huts. but the Negros have all gone except one Old Grand Army man. who lives with his son by them selves. he was watching the fifth Ohio drill the other day and I asked him if that looked natural and he said Yes sir Cap. thats mighty natchel. mighty natchel.

This is quite an historical Island The Pirates and Buckneers of olden times Buried there treasures here are have never been found so we are all glad to dig sinks and cellars ofor the opportunity of seaking this treasure. there is an old spanish fort on the north part of this island that was taken from spain before the war then the south used it and it was taken by the north in 1863 on half of it was blown away at that time and was left about as it was after the war. It is quite interesting to look at I went over to see it last sunday a squad of soldiers stay there, there is a Plank walk from the old Spanish town Fernandia to the Fort over the Bay and Swamps the walk is a bout four feet from the water on trestles and only about 14 inches wide and when you pass any body coming the opposite drection you must take his hand and both swing around you but I was glad when we got over and dreaded it till we got back. we are 3 mile from the fort and about ½ mile from

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SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION.

Camp _____

_____ 1898

the light house which is situated 1 mile from the sea on a high hill we are about 1 mile From New Fernandia. It is an Ideal Tropical city all kinds trees and flowers everwhere. there is a pretty little stone Church there covered with all kind of tropical vines and the yard is full of flowers. there are barrels of ice water at every corner mark "For Soldiers Only". The Atlantic Ocean was a sight for us who had never seen it. We go bathing there three times a week. The wave come in 10 and 12 feet high and brake on the shore and we bath in the Breakers we can not get out over 30 feet then a big wave bring us back and lams us againt the shore we seen a shark the other day and sveral Porpus they are a large fish from 6 to 10 feet long they go in droves

they have a horn on there nose something like a whale. there are lot of eagles and Pelicans and aligators here I saw a boy with two aligators last sunday he told where the old one was and we went and dug in the sand for him but didnt find him. I was on guard yesterday and have been on police duty today. They are giving us some long pratice marches now we march about 12 mile every other afternoon we start out at 1.30 Oclock and get back at 4 Oclock we skermish and run up and down sand hill until we are played out the we line up on the beach and in Battalion front and pass in review. the we come home and get ready for hard tack and sow belly. 3 Regiments Our Brigade go out together and it is a sight worth seeing. we have more about the country by these marches too but on day I was sick and gave out so I had to march by my self about eight miles back to camp and then I had to get ready for guard mount in about 17 minutes Wash and

change clothes and everything and a fellows gun must shine in side or out or the Regimental Adjitant will call your supernumery and you go the guard house no excuse either I had my pictures taken last week as soon as they are done I will send you one or two of the best ones I.

The Paymaster seen us last Friday I only drew five dollars and left the rest in the captains care it is better than to risk sending it home I am going to by a cuban machela to take home with me I saw one that was In the battle of Santigo the other day but the fellow wanted $500 for it. I think I can by one for about $1.00 I was over at the artilery pratice monday the had a block built out of Green pine logs about 7 inch through the house was 6 fet square a sargent set the site a 25 hundred and a 6 in gun and it tore the Block house all to peice there wasnt a peice a foot long left of it

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Camp _____

_____ 1898

They were proud of making such a good shot but they didn't like building a new target. I am coming home as soon as we are mustered out but I may enlist in the regulars and go to Porto Rico with the army of Occupation I want to see that country Yours Truly

Chas. Clawson

We may go to Long Island before we are mustered out and we may go to the G.A.R. Encampment at Cincinnati

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Camp Fernandina
1st
Aug. 17th 1898

Dear Parents:

I havent written to You for some time but I think of You every day. We are Still Fernandina and stay here sometime. I dont think we will get home before our two years are out, now. Our Officers are making to much money to want to be mustered out. For Instance our Colonel who runs a small hotel in Cincinati and our capain who was a type setter receive $10 a day and $150 a month respectively. So you see it will pay them to stay in the army. Major Thomas is and has been in Cincinati recruiting about 3 weeks and I cant see any use in recruiting to the full number unless they are aiming to hold us Colonel reported Yesterday that his regiment was ready for garison duty,

Six Corporals were appointed the week and I was expecting a corporalship but a fellow me that I did not put up any money was that I did get one The First Lieutenant told me last week that I stould a very good chance I would have it except for the $2 more on the month. We have a fine camp here. We are on a small Island the light-house is about ¼ mile from our Regimental camp. There are 8 Regiments here, the 1st Ohio 8th Ohio 5th Ohio, 69th and 2nd N.Y. 1st Fla. and 3rd Pa. and 32nd Michigan and One Reg. Battery of Artilery. There is a small Old spanish Fort about 3 miles from our camp I walked out to see it last Sunday There is a a plank walk across the bay from Old Fernandia to the Fort about 1½ mile long it is only about 14 inches wide and when you meet any body you must take them by the hand and both swing around This Fort was taken by U.S. in 1845 and used by the South until a 1863 when it was shelled and taken by the north One half mile Below to

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WILLIAM B. MILLAR,
Secretary of the Commission.

Camp .....

3rd 1898

pieces at the time. It is still used as a harbor fortress. 18 men stay there. I say what a cannon 6 in Bore can do one day last week I went over to see the artilery practice They had Built a small Block house 6 feet square of 7 in pine logs about 8 feet high for a target the loaded and the seargeant set the site at 2/5 hundred yard and the smoke had cleared away we look for the target but the never found a piece 2 feet long of the whole thing. the were proud of making such a good shot but they had to build a new block house. I had my picture taken last Friday and as soon as they are finished I will send them home, I want to send some shells home as soon as I can get a pass the soldiers fight so much down town that it is hard to get a pass.

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Camp.....
5th

.....1898

We were paid last Saturday I give Ten dollars to the captain to keep I am almost afraid to send my money in a letter and it is safe with the captain there is no use to try to keep money in the company to many ~~a lot~~ Soldiers are great gamblers!

3 card Monte and Old high is going on all the time a young boy of company D sent $78 dollars which he had got out of a game in about an hour. Some fellow buy 50 cents worth of tobacco to do them through the month and go into a game and lose their money in less than an hour. but some body has more money to send home I do not gamble any I have money fun enough watching the other fools. We have a bower built over our mess tables and that is where we sit and talk and joke and through sarcasm at each Other

and here to we tell each other our tales of woe.
and plan how to get out of a job of work.
for it is a disgrace to a soldier to have to
work. they will ask you "how long you are in for"
and "where is your guard" or "what did you do"
the Other day I was washing behind the
quarter masters tent and a fellow come running
around toward me and yelled at me to come
on and get away from that tent it scared
me for the quarter master keeps the ammunition
in his tent ~~[illegible]~~ on fire so I follow Lenny out into the Bushes
in a hurry and asked him what was the
matter and he said: Why the quartermaster
has a load of lumber to unload and he hunting
for a detail to unload. So we set down
and waited until all danger was over.
We go bathing in the Atlantic 3 times
a week it is a gradual beach the waves come
mountain high and break on the shore
so we can not get out over 25 feet I beats
Tampa Every thing here beats Tampa
Yours as Ever
Chas Classen

for the time of year is here for much sickness in the South
From your Mother Ed Clawson

Clayton Ind Aug 25 1898

Dear Charlie

I just wrote to you a few days ago. But Old Man Denny gave Pa the Cincinnati Commercial yesterday and that paper says the First Ohio will not be mustered out that it will go to Cuba or Porto Rico to do Garrison Duty I do hope it will not be Cuba on account of the sickness there but there are many sick also in Porto Rico The Typhoid Fever was carried there By our Transports there are a Thousand of our Soldiers Sick there Now and Sickness is on the increase there. I want you to be sure to wear Asophoetida in a little Bag on your Breast not to low down just below your neck. Be sure to do this Charlie

it may keep you from having any kind of Fever. and if you should have Disentery you know that part of a nut-meg grated in two tea spoonfull will stop it: and then eat nothing but the yellows of hard Boiled Eggs, and drink Boiled milk. I think they could save many poor soldiers lives in the Hospitals if they knew these things and could get them.
I hope you will not get sick but if you should you must try to remember these things I tell you. and in Fever the greatest danger is in what the Patient eats Eugene and I lived on Boiled milk and a little Potato soup made with milk. When the Patient is recovering from Fever they crave every thing to eat and then is the Great danger Because the Bowels and Stomach are all raw and sore. the yellows

of hard Boiled Eggs. Then and Potato Soup or Boiled milk with Bread. or Thickened milk. Fruit - or Jellies or vegetables of any kind are not fit for a convalesent from fever to Eat unless it is very Ripe Peaches and not many of them unless you have good thick Cream to eat with them I want you to keep this letter it might help you To save some poor Soldiers life if not your own. Peach Kernels is good for Dysentery never let any looseness of the Bowels run on more than a day. You know that and nutmegs will check it. I saved old Philip Pennington's life with whiskey and a grated whole nutmeg when the Doctors could not stop the Dysentery on him, and he would have died. I would be glad that you could get to go to Porto Rico if it were not for the Sickness but you may come through alright

if you will take the Best of care of
your self. You must learn to look
out for your self in every way
and keep out of all kinds of
danger as much as possible.
then you will get to see some
of the world. and it may be
some profit to you. when you
are not able to go on a
march you should be relieved.
because overdoing your self is
apt to Bring on Sickness.
the 27 Battery is to be mustered out
Indiana will then have only 2 Regiments
in the service The 15th is one and
they want to Be mustered out
they have Been ordered to Knoxville
Tenn. I want you to tell us if
your Regiment has been Transfered
to the Seventh Army corps that
is General Lee's corps. I want you
to write to us Charlie and let us know
where you are and if you should get sick
let us knows we are being uneasy about

I have been sick and cannot write much

This letter there to be mailed

1898

June 14.

From E A Clawson
Clayton Hendricks co Indiana

Ps is trying again for his Pension

Dear Charlie

I received your letter with the five Dollars allright. you ought to get a postal order. as it is not always safe to send money in a common letter. I sorry You sent it for may be you needed it but any time you need money badly let me know and I will send it to you; it is not Best to take too much money with you if you start to Porto Rico or Cuba but I beleive you will go to Porto Rico from what I see in the Papers. I see your Regiment and the 157th Indiana was left out of the Santiago Expedition and I am glad of it: you will get to fight soon enough. I worried about you all day a sunday the 12th of

June for I Supposed you was on your
way with the Expedition. for I saw in
the News that your Regiment was to
go with General Shafters Command
that was the Reason I did not
write a Sunday. if you ever go
we will know it here Before you
start. I saw in the News last Even
that they had not Sufficient Transports
to take the full Expedition. and had
to leave most of the cavalry horses.
I want you to write again before you
leave if you can. you know I am
troubled about you and it relieves me
to hear from you. I hope you will
not go to that Tampa City too much
it is a hard Place and there is danger
for the Soldiers in those Southern
citys on account of the Spanish. you
are Better off at your Camps. I
hope you will not do any thing to
disgrace Yourself as a Soldier,
or as a man. try to do right in

when Pa gets back from Penn. I will make him write to you for I know it is

every way. So that the Lord may answer
Your Prayers and mine that you may
be spared to return Home to us. Do
dont Risk going too far out in the
Bay You might step in a hole or
be washed out to Sea which has
been the case with many Expert
Swimmers. That Thompson that was
drowned at Chickamanga the day
You left there was a captains son.
apples are going to be scarce this Jear and
we are putting up Cherries for Pies. Ed is
Picking them at old man Johnsons
they have so many. I am going to have
a lot of cherry trees set out this Jear all
along the south side of the Branch from
Johnsons on east and into that little
Corner. This fall. There is room for forty
Cherry trees. Ben Hamricks will have $ 40.00
dollars worth of cherrys to sell this Jear.
There is Buggy there all the time after
cherrys at 20 cents a gallon. Jersey
has twin Calves. Both Black heifers
Eugene and Guy and Nellie was
down last week and staied for dinner

Guy is cute. he came in the Kitchen when I was making a fire to get dinner and said Grandma what kind of a hook is that hanging on a nail on the Porch. I said may be it is a chicken hook. he said Yes it is legs have a Chicken for dinner I can take that hook and catch one let me catch two. so I let him get two young Chickens for dinner. Guy is an awful frail looking little child. he dont look rugged like you and Eugene did when you was little. if you have to go to Porto Rico. or Cuba. and have to be on Gaurd there is where there is great danger you must be wide awake they send Guerillas out to kill the American Gaurds. the spaniard killed four of our american gaurds last Saturday night near Santiago De Cuba they were some marines that Sampson had landed there. Ed is going to Ardmore to mill this morning so I will send

Have never seen a letter written by a Spaniard. I have seen a Spanish Flag from a Captain who fought in the Civil War

Jacksonville Fla
Sept. 2nd 1898

Dear Parents We are going to
Cincinnati to be mustered out
as soon as we can get Trans-
portation so many men are
married and have familys
depending on them that the
war department have consented
to muster us out I want to
go across and see what we have
been fighting for. I am
coming home as soon as we are
mustered out and then go
back again. Captain Hake of

Co I. is getting up a company and I am going with him Our Regiment was 9th in Line in the Review at Jacksonville Last Wednesday. We were churred Lustily By Gen. Lee and his Staff. William Jennings Bryan and his Regiment were in line this is a lovely place and I dislike to leave here. We drill 10 hours in the morning and they are just pleasure trips around our camps looking for curious sights Thursday morning we stopped in front of house that put me in mind of old man Kenny's they were very clever folks an

invited us in to get a drink of water and to eat grapes and I never saw such grapes nor so many of them you can imagin what a hundred men can do to a grape vinard. And they had persimmons as large as a tea cup I thought of sending some to pa but they are not Ripe I ate some Oranges Yesterday the most of them are not Ripe yet I suppose you got the shells I sent home I would like to send something from here but I dont know what to send and I cant carry and more than I have

Some of the boys have sent home young aligators but they have always died before they got home. the chief Baker has just come over to get some one to help bake so we will be ready to move monday. the Band have new instruments and I want to go hear them play at guard mount this evening I know they will do their Best So Good By

Chas Clausen

Clayton Ind Sep 14 1898

Dear Charlie

I seen two weeks ago in the Paper that your Regiment was To Be Thulonghed home. But I cant see anything more in the Paper about it and I am not certain where you are. But I suppose you will be at Cincinnati Soon so I will send this there. You ought to get your Captain to get you a one Cent a mile Transportation ticket from Cincinnati to Clayton. and Return if you think Best as you will have to go Back to cincinnati in thirty days and see that your ticket is good for thirty days it is only about 160 miles from Clayton to cincinnati and you

Ticket will not cost you much both ways and you will have to pay that out of your own pocket. I dont want you to try to Beat your way home. I want you to come home like a man. The Ride will make you tired Enough at Best take good care of you self and take care of your money that you draw and dont let somebody Rob You. Every Body knows that The Soldiers draw their pay before they start home so be on the look out and dont drink. and dont enlist again so far from home. if you had been with The Indiana Soldiers it would not have cost so much to get home. We will look for you home soon may God take good care of you and Bring you safely home is my Prayer. From E A Clawson

The 15th Regiment- came to Indianapolis yesterday The Clayton Boys will be at- home in a few days. The 157th Regiment- Boys have all gone home but- some of the sick are in hospitals yet- at the city one poor fellow of the 157th died on the train just- as the train stopped in the depot. his mother and Father got- on the train as soon as it- stopped. but he had just- died The 27th Battery is on the way on the ship Concho. They will come By way of New York Eugene has Been poisoned By Poison Oak he cut- a switch To hurry his horse and carried it- about five miles in his hand and Kept- wiping the sweat- off his face with his hands. his face was an awful

sight - he is Better now. he was
at Tom Bustys a week laid up
he had Erecypalis with it.
The Children were here all last
week. Now take care of your money
Charlie and Come home allright -

Clayton Ind Sep 30 1898

Dear Charlie

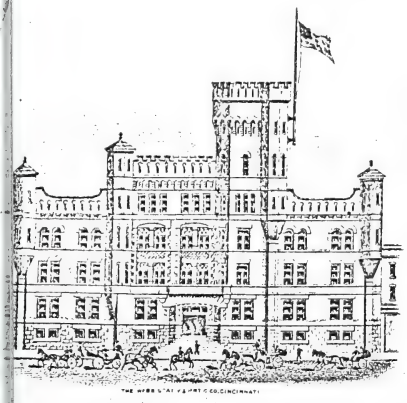
I have waited to hear from you ever since I heard about the First Ohio Reg arriving in Cincinnati why do you not write and tell us when you are coming home. I see in the cincinnati News that your Regiment is to be mustered out on the 15th Oct I hope you will come home Immediately after you are mustered out. I feel uneasy about you because you do not write it was allright for you to stay at cincinnati and have a good time with the Boys. but you ought to let us hear from you. I wish

you would not- Enlist- again
I dont- like the Idea of you
going to Cuba or Porto Rico
there are over two thousand
of our Boys sick in Porto Rico
and a great- many a dying
every day. and Cuba is worse
it- is a Regular pest- hole. and
if you are mustered out- you had
Better come home to stay.
I will Never Persuade you
against- your will to stay
at- home. but- you could get-
work at- cincinnati or Indianapolis
and you would not- be in so
much danger of losing your
life. by desease. if there should
be another Excursion to Cincinnati
I expect- Eugene will go to see
you. he talks of it- and he
promised me to write to you
this week. I saw in the Paper
what- a hearty Reception the
cincinnatie People gave the First

Ohio Boys. Will Kling told me last Spring when I was at Dayton that you was just throwing away two years of the best part of your life When you Join the Army and I think so too. I think you have done your duty you served when your Country needed you Now let some one else go. Now Charlie do write and let me know if you are sick or what keeps you from writing. we are all well I have been putting up Peaches this week. you will get here too late to see peaches on the trees but we have lots put up. Geo Eastham has the malarial fever But he is about on foot most of the time Sig Bolen is poorly yet in bed with Typhoid Fever. Fred Hollingsworth has arrived home his Father was with him about five weeks at Long Island John Hollingsworth says it cost him lots of money But he would not take anything

for what he has seen. he had to stop
with Fred in New York city about
a week to let Fred rest - Before they
could proceed on their journey home
Now I want you to be sure and come
home and see me. and be sure to write
Immediately because I have to work
very hard for one of my strength &
and trouble wears one out.
I think about you all the time
Good Bye until I see you
From your Mother
E A Clawson

I hope that you will get this By Monday
Oct 3. rd



Headquarters,
First Regiment of Infantry,
Ohio National Guard

Cincinnati, Sept 29 1898

Dear Brother: I received your letter Tuesday but having been acting Sergeant of the guard, I have not had time to ans. until now. Rumors are flying fast and I dont know whether we will be mustered out or not. I dont want to be, but I would like to get a furlough before we go to cuba and I expect I will. If you want to come and see me you can come over on an excursion. We are quartered in the armory. I can not get a furlough now, to go so far as the Officers dont know when we may be mustered out and every Body must be here to sign the Papers after the 20th of next month I may get a furlough but that is not sure. I have'nt any money at the present time so I could'nt come home if I had a furlough.

Write if you are coming and what road you are coming over and I will be at the depot and meet you.

Yours as ever
Chas. P. Clawson

(P.S.) I wrote to ma Last Sunday.
I would be very sorry to go back south without seeing some of you. when we go again will stay 18 month to Balance of our time. We are having a hard time getting climated again here and many of the Boys are in the hospital

Chas Clawson

with him for 7 1/2 more than a month he is
at Long Island

Clayton Ind Sep 19 1898

Dear Charlie

We received the Two Pictures
you sent of the Transports also the two
Beautiful shells you sent to Eugene.
Eugene got the first Box of shells.
you sent and he told Pa to go to the
Express office and get these. Eugene has
not seen these yet you ought to send
some shells to Josie She is your Sister
and thinks just as much of you as
any Body does She is always glad to
hear from you. and is just as anxious
about you when she thinks there is
any danger for you. Every Body thinks
the shells are Beautiful and wonderful.
Peggy McClure & Mr Asher were here
at the door saturday to see the shells.
I am afraid you are not going to get
to come home on a furlough Nov.
but I looked for you all last week

and wrote you a letter and sent it to Cincinnati for I supposed you was there in Camp until we received the pictures and seen they were sent from Jacksonville Fla on Sep 12 th. Just a week ago to day This is Monday. Ed let Bird and Belle run away this morning and smashed his running gears of his wagon all to peices and lost all his sugar and coffee and Groceries. The Single tree on Birds side came off and dropped down and scared her and Ed jumped off the wagon and let them go they run into that deep ditch at Tom Busby's old Brick. and Broke every thing up. Ed has gone to Clayton now to Buy him a new running gears. Pa is using your wagon I have the 20 dollars yet you sent me But I am going to put it in Eggs to hold I can make my interest that way and my insurance money. I am going to investigate as to the soundness

of that insurance co. and if it is a Reliable co I want to keep my insurance up from year to year. I have a hundred dollars worth of hogs on hand and may be I can make them bring me more than that. I paid melvin Johnson for tending the corn and I am going to feed the Hogs out of it as long as there is an Ear left. I told Pa this place had to help pay the debt on it. he would feed it to his horses and the chickens he takes to the city and and I would have nothing to even pay my taxes. So I am looking out for myself. So you need not worry about me. and I make Ed pay me for the corn he uses too. and you ought to spare me five dollars a month to help pay that debt to old Capt and I will pay you Interest on it and this twenty dollars too. and it will come handy to you sometime I am not letting Pa get a hold of any of my money when I sell Chickens and

Eggs I hold on to the money. and I save up a good sal. I will get out all right if god will give me strength and health. Pa makes enough to keep himself and keep his wagon in repair his horses has been living off the corn and fodder out of our field since the middle of august he ought to get ahead, and have some money now while his horses and chickens are feeding off of the corn here. But he owes Josie thirty dollars for goods he made $15 last week and payed it to Josie on a debt — he owed her for money she had paid to Henry Johnson on that corn note. the Boren Boys are at home Jim was sick and had to be taken in an ambulance with about sixty sick Soldiers from the depot in the city to Camp Mount. I have not heard how he is since he came to Clayton Read hollingsworth has been dangerously sick with Typhoid fever [illegible]

Clayton Nov 29. 1898

Captain Deitz,

Dear Sir: I intended to come back to Cincinati to work this but found work nearer home and as my mother is old and worries a great deal about me I have concluded to stay here. Therefore I would like it very much if you would send me my discharge from the O.R.R. if you can. as it would be an expense to me and inconvenience very much to come to cincinnati now.

No Body wants their Boys to stay in the army and go to Cuba on account of the Fevers and terrible deseases that kills them off in the camps.. When the soldiess get sick they are so Badly Neglected and dont get Nourishing food and some poor fellows starved to death on the Transport on their way home from Santiago. because there was nothing provided on the ships that the Sick Boys could Eat that is the reason no one wants their Boys to go Back to the army if it can be helped and I would rather you would not enlist again if you are mustered out. You dont know any thing about the hardships you will have to Endure and going to cuba will not be like being in camp in this country the Boys say that camps life

Becomes so monotonous in Cuba and a great many of the soldiers dies from home sickness.

I think you have been specially favored not to be sick very much but. You ought to see to it and wear a little camphor Bag or asophoedada all the time now Because the fevers will rage more than ever now in the South. and these Two disinfectents are good to keep off the germs. You can make the Bags and fill them your self with fresh camphor dont risk going without these Preventives. be careful about going in to Bathe so many soldiers get drowned. were your pictures not good or why did you not send them. write soon. Eugene was poisined with poison OAK But is about well Now. Lee Reed is at Indianapolis Now with the Battery. with love to You From You Mother E A C

I must write again soon so look for it and write before you go and let us know if you got your clothes

Arthur Crowder lives in Cincinnati

My Love and Mary would like you well but I don't know what

I Believe it will be Best to send you the money to Buy you shoes in Cincinnati. I am afraid we cannot fit you. and you had better Buy broad shoes so they will be easy on your feet

we will send your clothes By way of the Big four as you directed from Indianapolis I will get a grip to send your clothes in and I think you will get them By Friday or Saturday as I cannot send them before Pa goes to city — Charlie There was not a word of Truth in what Art Walls told you — Charlie I dont want you to enlist to go to Cuba do not let any one Persuade you to go. I think we will need soldiers here at home before many days

Now Charlie you have started out to do for yourself and you must use your own Judgment in all things and do what you think is for the Best. I always did my Best for you. but I made some mistakes. I did not give you as good an Education as you should have had But now it is too late for that. But you can get a good practical Education By coming in contact with the with the World Choose your company if possible with Educated People and with good People you must be kind and Polite to every Body But make Choice of the Best to associate with. if they will allow you But shun those who drink whiskey Swear From your Mother with Love to you

E A Clawson

Charlie did your Indian Boy Enlist I guess I was scared worse than he was when I went to see him that day For I could not talk to him much he hopped out so quick when I called for him I guess he must have thought it was some of his folks called to see him. May be he thought his girl had come. he took me by surprise by hopping out of the tent so quick I hardly knew what to say to him. he is a fine looking Boy and I guess he will be a good Soldier. What became of that Boy that had his hands and ears so badly Sun Burned. did he enlist. I want you to give some of the Boys of your company our name and address. so that if any thing happens to You that they can write to us and let us know about you is Captain Deitz your Captain yet and give me the names of a few of the Boys of your company

then if I did not hear from you I could write and inquire about you. Uncle Albert Leatherman was buried the next sunday after I was at Columbus I left Dayton on Thursday morning he died on friday morn I knew he could not live long but I had to go home we had so many little chix to tend to. I made Albert laugh the day before I left I was telling him how well you liked Beans and about you cooking a mess of Beans once when I was gone to the city. You put so many in the Pot and had to keep dipping them out until you had all the pans in the Kitchen full of Beans and a Dish Pan full. J J Leatherman has work now he makes $1.50 a day he makes computing scales. works in a Factory our little trees are full of Peaches Eugene is going to write to you with love to you. Your Mother

E H C Lawson

1 rest—

do you know the Correspondent to the Indianapolis News from the 15-7 th Indiana Regiment- he often mentions the first- Ohio Regiment- and I am glad he does. for if I can only hear or see some thing mentioned about- the Regiment- it- does me good. I sit- up of nights to read and see if there is any thing said about- your Regiment. I would be glad if you could make the acquaintance of that Correspondent he might- always say some thing about- your Regiment- Especially after you leave this Country for. I suppose you will always be camped near Each other and you can tell him you are an Indiana Boy. and that your mother reads the News Every Evening and likes to read his letters and that it is a great- comfort- to me when he mentions

your Regiment and if you will See him I think he will be Pleased to Say Something Nearly every time he writes for that is what he writes for to Please the Patrons of the Paper and give them the News. I thought of taking the daily Engriners But I Cant afford to take it and the News too and I like the News the Best but I could hear more about your Regiment in the Engriner I believe there is some good Boys with the 157th Indiana they abolished the whiskey Canteen from their Regiment. your be sure to make the acquaintance of that Corresponden when you have time it may be a great Pleasure to you; tell him you are an Indiana Boy and want to make his acquaintance on account of your Mother as well as your Self. Charlie try to associate with good men

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